

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF MACEDONIA AND ITS INHABITANTS OVER TIME

From its origins, cca. the 8th century BC, and during its emergence, the ancient kingdom of Macedonia\* was clearly a political entity belonging to indigenous people of Greek stock, since all the archaeological and epigraphic proofs, as well as the writings of the ancient historians (Greek or Latin), show that not just the elite, but also the ordinary people spoke and wrote Greek and followed the ancient Greek religion and customs, thus being part of the Hellenic/Greek culture. They were not "hellenized", as some try to suggest, because there is no reliable proof they would have spoken another language of their own, different from Greek or a dialect of it. That ancient kingdom had its borders almost completely inside the territory of the nowadays Greece (Northern Greece). Those Greeks living south of the Macedonian kingdom were politically organized into independent city-states, like Athens or Sparta. After conquering the southern Greek city-states (political wars among people of the same stock), while extending his kingdom and transforming it into an empire (the 4th century BC), Alexander the Great spread the Greek culture and conquered large territories to the East, as far as India, but, of course, not all those territories became "Macedonia" ever after or continued to be called as such until today (like Afghanistan, for instance).

However, later, when the Romans conquered the territories inhabited by the Greeks in the Greek peninsula (mainland Greece), they divided them into two provinces: Macedonia in the North (as we find it mentioned in the Christian New Testament - a reliable historical source) and Achaia, in the South (sometimes called "Ellas" or "Greece", in a narrow sense of the name). It is interesting that Chapter 17 of the Acts of the Apostles (the Bible - NT), records St. Paul meeting Greeks and Jews in that time Thessaloniki (Salonica), but NO "ethnic Macedonians", while being a "Macedonian" had a regional connotation. Also, as the Roman conquerors decided to define it, the territory of their empire's province of Macedonia was larger than the one of the previous ancient kingdom, by also comprising almost the whole of the modern day Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of "Macedonia" or FYROM\*\* (Macedonia Salutaris) and a considerable adjacent part from Bulgaria.

Then, cca. 1000 years after the demise of Alexander's the Great Greek kingdom, the tribes of the Slavs invaded the Macedonia region, but, until the beginning of the 20th century, less of their descendants would have thought of themselves as being "ethnic Macedonians", while they were just regional Macedonians (like the Jews in the New Testament), living next to the Greeks.

The "ethnic Macedonians" hoax, as well as both the creation of the modern so-called (formerly Socialist) "Republic of Macedonia", officially referred today at the United Nations as the FYROM, by the arbitrary renaming of YugoSLAVIA's province of the river Vardar or VARDARSKA BANOVINI, and the absurd upgrading of the Bulgarian dialect spoken by its residents (most of them having a Bulgarian national consciousness before) to the so-called "Macedonian language", were promoted and achieved in the mid of the 1940s and the years to come by the communist regime of Tito. The dictatorial regime had a precedent for its purely political and irredentist actions towards Greece in the Bulgarian Ilinden uprising against the Ottomans (the Turkish empire), when the Bulgarians living in the Macedonia region, who also wanted to annex it to a greater Bulgarian state, started to talk about themselves as they would have been a special kind of Bulgarians, that's "Macedonians".

During the Ottoman empire, there was no region (vilayet) with the name of "Macedonia", but the Bulgarians (followed by the nowadays FYROM nationals) managed to designate a larger territory with that name than the ancient kingdom was, so this is why we have today, according to the Slavic understanding, these "parts" of Macedonia: proper Macedonia in Greece (called "Aegean Macedonia"), FYROM (or "Vardar Macedonia", previously "Vardarska Banovina") and South-Western Bulgaria (or "Pirin Macedonia").

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\* The name "Macedonia" derives from the tribal name of the ancient Macedonians, attested in Greek sources as the "Makednoi" or "Makedones", which are commonly explained as having originally meant "the tall ones" or "highlanders" and being linked to the Greek words "makednos" (long, tall), attested in Homer and recorded by Hesychius of Alexandria as a Doric Greek word meaning "large", or "makros" (long, large).

\*\* At the time of the ancient Macedonian kingdom's emergence, the territory of the nowadays FYROM was almost entirely comprising the ancient kingdoms of Paeonia and Dardania, while only a relatively small part of southern FYROM, the Pelagonia region, belonged to the Macedonian kingdom.

# MAP OF MACEDONIA



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<http://www.youtube.com/cryptomyself>

Check various websites with accurate information on Macedonia's history and the name issue or dispute between Greece and F.Y.R.O.M.:

<http://www.mfa.gr/en/fyrom-name-issue/>

<http://www.mfa.gr/fr/la-question-du-nom-de-larym/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macedonia\\_\(Greece\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macedonia_(Greece))

<http://www.history.com/topics/hellenistic-greece>

<http://history-of-macedonia.com>

<http://historyofmacedonia.wordpress.com>

<http://www.macedonia.com/english>

<http://www.macedonia.info/history.htm>

<http://www.macedonian-heritage.gr>

<http://www.hri.org/Martis/contents/index.html>

<http://www.unix.gr/Macedonia/history.html>

<http://ancient-medieval-macedonian-history.blogspot.com>

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<http://www.hri.org/docs/macque>

<http://www.angelfire.com/ma/makedonia>

<http://macedoniagreece.com/.com/balkan-communist-propaganda>

<http://www.cc.ece.ntua.gr/~conster>

[http://www.greece-2004.com/macedonia\\_is\\_greek](http://www.greece-2004.com/macedonia_is_greek)

<http://web.mit.edu/hellenic/www/macedonia.html>

<http://www.karpathos.org/macedonia/index.shtml>

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<http://www.makedons.de>

<http://dienekes.awardspace.com/articles/fallmerayer>

<http://ancientgreekdna.blogspot.ro>

<http://greek-dna-sub-saharan-myth.org/greeks-sub-saharan.html>

<http://www.scribd.com/collections/3678546/Books-and-Articles-on-the-History-of-Macedonia-and-the-Greek-Heritage>